

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 SAM-01

SAB-01 SCCT-01 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 USSS-00 /080 W

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O R 201030Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8227

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 0617

DELIVER TO ARN/NEA/DRAPER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS

DEPT PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY FOR DAY.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: 0900 LEBANON REPORT

1. NIGHT WAS FAIRLY NOISY, WITH SHOOTING ALL ALONG THE LINE OF RIGHT-LEFT, CHRISTIAN-MOSLEM CONFRONTATION, PARTICULARLY TRADITIONAL HOT SPOT OF AIN RUMMANEH-CHIYAH, PHALANGE-CHAMOUNIST FORCES APPEARED TO HAVE PRETTY WELL CLEANED UP QARANTINA AREAS AND ARE REPORTEDLY BULL-DOZING PARTS OF IT. THREAT TODAY IS TO NABAA DISTRICT, ALSO ADJACENT TO PHALANGE-HELD TERRITORY, WHICH LEFTISTS PALESTINIANS JUSTIFIABLY FEAR WILL BE NEXT TARGET OF PHALANGE-CHAMOUN "CLEAN-UP" CAMPAIGN.

2. WE DO NOT HAVE ANY RELIABLE REPORTS ON UP-COUNTRY SITUATION AND MUST ASSUME IT IS TENSE WITH ISOLATED FIGHTING, BUT NOTHING BIG AT THE MOMENT.

3. PRESS HEADLINES CHAMOUN'S CLAIM THAT SYRIANS ARE
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INVADING LEBANON. CHAMOUN SPEAKS OF 8000 SOLDIERS

WITH ARMOR AND HEAVY ARTILLERY. OUR DATT WAS TOLD BY ARMY THAT NUMBER OF FORCES WHICH ENTERED FROM SYRIA, (NOT SYRIAN FORCES AS SUCH), PRESENTLY NUMBER 3200. ARMY ATTACHE NOTES THAT SYRIAN ARMY DOES NOT HAVE 155 MM PIECES, EVEN THOUGH CHAMOUN CLAIMS THEY HAVE BEEN IMPORTED FROM SYRIA.

4. MOSLEM GROUP WITH WHOM KARAME HAS CONSULTED REPORTEDLY DECIDED KARAME SHOULD NOT PRESENT HIS RESIGNATION IN WRITING. THIS PRESAGES BARGAINING WITH THE PRESIDENT, WHICH WE ARE TOLD IS ALREADY UNDERWAY AND NOT REPEAT NOT PROCEEDING TOO BADLY. JUMBLATT AND IMAM MUSA SADR ARE AMONG PROMINENT POLITICAL PERSONALITIES DUE TO TRAVEL TO DAMASCUS TODAY. LEBANESE SYRIAN CONSULTATIONS ARE CONTINUING AT HIGH PITCH.

5. I AM CONCERNED OVER THE HIGHJACKING OF TWO EMBASSY VANS YESTERDAY ALONG CORNICH ROAD. ARMED ELEMENTS WERE PROBABLY MOURABITOUN OR LOCAL DRUZE. WE ARE TRYING VARIOUS AVENUES TO RECOVER THEM, HOPING TO MAKE POINT THAT AMERICAN EMBASSY VEHICLES SHOULD NOT BE TARGETS FOR THIS SORT OF LOOTING. AIRPORT REMAINS CLOSED BUT AMERICANS THERE ARE SAFE.
LAMBRAKIS

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